

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 12, 14, 22 and 24-31 to read as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting electronic information representing material data into said apparatus;

b) encoding means for encoding the electronic information representing material data to form contents data;

c) forming means for forming electronic intellectual property management information from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model, so as to control data processing of the contents data; and

d) addition means for adding to the contents data the intellectual property management information formed by said forming means.

2.(Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding means forms MPEG-4 encoded data.

3.(Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said addition means embeds the intellectual property management information in IPMP data.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding means performs encryption on the contents.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said encoding means encrypts the contents by using key information formed according to the intellectual property management information.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said encoding means performs encryption on the basis of a public-key crypto system.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the intellectual property management information comprises information on a patent or a utility model used to decode the contents data.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information on a patent or a utility model includes information on a registration country and a patent number or a utility model registration number.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the material information includes image data.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the material information includes audio data.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting electronic information representing material data into said apparatus;

b) encoding means for encoding the electronic information representing material data to form contents data;

c) forming means for forming electronic intellectual property management information from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model, so as to control data decoding of the contents data; and

d) addition means for adding to the contents data the intellectual property management information formed by said forming means.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting electronic information representing encoded contents data and intellectual property management information formed from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model;

b) discrimination means for discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property management information whether use of the ~~patent and the utility model are~~ intellectual property items is authorized;

c) decoding means for decoding the electronic information representing the contents data; and

d) control means for controlling said decoding means according to the result of the discrimination made by said discrimination means.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the contents data comprises data encoded in accordance with the MPEG-4 coding system.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the intellectual property management information is contained in IPMP data.

17. (Original) An apparatus according claim 14, wherein the content data input by said encoding means is encrypted.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the content data input by said encoding means is encrypted according to the intellectual property management information.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the information on a patent or a utility model includes information on a registration country and a patent number or a utility model registration number.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the contents data includes image data, said apparatus further comprising display means for displaying a content decoded by said decoding means.

22. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) an input unit that inputs means for inputting electronic information representing encoded contents data and intellectual property management information formed from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model;

b) a discrimination unit that discriminates means for discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property management information whether use of the patent and the utility model are intellectual property items is authorized;

c) a decoding unit configured to decode means for decoding the electronic information representing the contents data; and

d) a control unit that controls means for controlling said decoding unit means according to the result of the discrimination made by said discrimination unit. means:

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising:

a) an input step of inputting electronic information representing material data into an apparatus;

b) an encoding step of encoding the electronic information representing material data to form contents data;

c) a forming step of forming electronic intellectual property management information from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model, so as to control data processing of the contents data; and

d) an addition step of adding to the contents data the intellectual property management information formed in said forming step.

25. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising:

a) an input step of inputting electronic information representing material data into an apparatus;

b) an encoding step of encoding the electronic information representing material data to form contents data;

c) a forming step of forming electronic intellectual property management information from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model, so as to control data decoding of the contents data; and

d) an addition step of adding to the contents data the intellectual property management information formed in said forming step.

26. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising:

a) an input step of inputting to an apparatus electronic information representing encoded contents data and intellectual property management information formed from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model;

b) a discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property management information whether use of the patent and the utility model are intellectual property items is authorized;

c) a decoding step of decoding the electronic information representing the contents data; and

d) a control step of controlling said decoding step according to the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.

27. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising:

a) an input step of inputting to an apparatus electronic information representing encoded contents data and intellectual property management information formed from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model;

b) a discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property management information whether use of each of the patent and the utility model are intellectual property items is authorized;

c) a decoding step of decoding the electronic information representing the contents data; and

d) a control step of controlling said decoding step according to the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing data processing program codes comprising:

a) a code for an input step of inputting to an apparatus electronic information representing material data;

b) a code for an encoding step of encoding the electronic information representing material data to form contents data;

c) a code for a forming step of forming electronic intellectual property management information from information of at least one of a relating to plurality

intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model, so as to control data processing of the contents data; and

d) a code for an addition step of adding to the contents data the intellectual property management information formed in said forming step.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing data processing program codes comprising:

a) a code for an input step of inputting electronic information representing material data into an apparatus;

b) a code for an encoding step of encoding the electronic information representing the material data to form contents data;

c) a code for a forming step of forming electronic intellectual property management information from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model, so as to control data decoding of the contents data; and

d) a code for an addition step of adding to the contents data the intellectual property management information formed in said forming step.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing codes comprising:

a) a code for an input step of inputting to an apparatus electronic information representing encoded contents data and intellectual property management information formed from information of at least one of a relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model;



b) a code for a discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property management information whether use of the ~~patent and the utility model~~ are intellectual property items is authorized;

c) a code for a decoding step of decoding the electronic information representing the contents data; and

d) a code for a control step of controlling said decoding step according to the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing data processing program codes comprising:

a) a code for an input step of inputting to an apparatus electronic information representing encoded contents data [[,]] and intellectual property management information formed from information ~~of at least one of a~~ relating to plural intellectual property items, each item being a patent and or a utility model;

b) a code for a discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property management information whether use of each of the ~~patent and the utility model~~ are intellectual property items is authorized;

c) a code for a decoding step of decoding the electronic information representing the contents data; and

d) a code for a control step of controlling said decoding step according to the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.